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COMMISSION

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

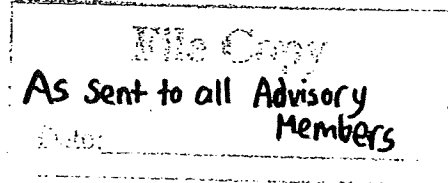
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 425 WEST OTTAWA POST OFFICE BOX 30050, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

PHONE: 517-373-2090 FAX: 517-373-0167 WEB SITE: <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us>

GREGORY J. ROSINE, DIRECTOR

September 17, 2002

Ms. Carol Jenifer, Director
Detroit District Office
Immigration and Naturalization Service
333 Mt. Elliott
Detroit, Michigan 48207



Dear Ms. Jenifer:

The Michigan Department of Transportation is undertaking a study to develop a twenty-year infrastructure investment plan for improvements at the U.S. Blue Water Bridge Plaza. For that plan to be meaningful, MDOT needs the active participation and eventual buy-in of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in the study process. As part of the plaza study, we are forming a governmental advisory group and would like the District Office to be a member of that group.

Judy Stroh, Port Huron Port Director, has agreed to be a member of the Advisory Committee. It would also be helpful to our efforts if you or a designee from the Detroit district office would also be willing to participate. Because the Blue Water Bridge is the second busiest commercial port on the U.S./Canada border and is also the fastest growing commercial port, we believe that improvements undertaken at this facility will have regional and national impacts. It is our goal that future improvements made at the Blue Water Bridge will establish it as a state of the art border crossing facility. Your participation in this effort will help us achieve that goal.

Our first meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 1, 2002 at the Thomas Edison Inn, 500 Thomas Edison Parkway, Port Huron MI 48060, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please contact me at 517/335-2614 or by email at wisniewskik@michigan.gov to confirm your or your designee's participation on the Advisory Committee and at our first meeting in Port Huron.

I have attached a summary of the study for your information. An agenda for the October 1 meeting will be sent to you in the near future. I look forward to working with you on this study.

Sincerely,

Z. Kris Wisniewski
Federal Binational Policy Specialist

Attachments

BLUE WATER BRIDGE PLAZA STUDY SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE: Determine the layout and 20-30 year schedule of capital improvements of the U.S. Plaza at the Blue Water Bridge to accommodate future traffic volumes and inspection processes, and complete environmental review documentation.

Among the issues to be considered include: Truck and Passenger Car Weaving, Long-term Traffic Projections, Overloaded Commercial Vehicle Parking, Primary and Secondary Car and Commercial Truck Inspection, Changes to Border Management Processes, Local Economic Development/Social Issues, Infrastructure/Site Security, Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

STUDY DELIVERABLES:

1. **Public Involvement and Study Communication Plan** - The CONSULTANT will, in consultation with the STEERING COMMITTEE and STUDY ADVISORY GROUP, develop a communication plan for study agencies, and a public involvement plan to facilitate opportunities for meaningful involvement of interested parties at every stage of the study.
2. **Plaza Goals, Objectives, and Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) Report** - The CONSULTANT will coordinate activities of the STEERING COMMITTEE and ADVISORY GROUP to develop a set of goals, objectives, and related MOE's for evaluation of proposed system and plaza improvements. Measures of effectiveness will be based on goals and objectives identified by the STEERING COMMITTEE, STUDY ADVISORY GROUP, and other interested parties.
3. **Blue Water Bridge Plaza System Plan** - The CONSULTANT will coordinate activities of the STEERING COMMITTEE and ADVISORY GROUP to develop a set of goals, objectives, and related MOE's for evaluation of proposed system and plaza improvements. Measures of effectiveness will be based on goals and objectives identified by the STEERING COMMITTEE, STUDY ADVISORY GROUP, and other interested parties.
4. **Environmental Clearance** - The CONSULTANT will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required to include project description, justification and history, purpose and need, as well as illustrations of practical alternatives, which include social, economic, and environmental (SEE) technical analysis, traffic analysis, geometry, preliminary design, right-of-way requirements, mitigation measures, construction cost estimates, proposed staging, and constructability justification.
5. **Final Engineering Report.** The CONSULTANT will provide a final engineering report (FER) to include detailed traffic forecasts, capacity, delay, and queuing analyses, security needs, and facility plans.

6. **Interstate Highway Access Justification Report** (if required) - The CONSULTANT will provide adequate documentation to satisfy FHWA's requirements for adding or changing access to the interstate system if interstate access modifications are necessary for the recommended alternative

STEERING COMMITTEE:

MDOT Policy Planning Section
MDOT Environmental Section
MDOT Blue Water Bridge Manager

MDOT Project Planning Section
MDOT Region/TSC
FHWA Michigan Representative

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: MDOT will invite key stakeholder agencies at the border to participate in an Advisory Committee that will help provide direction to the Plaza Study. Among the agencies that will be invited to participate are:

U.S. Customs Service
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. General Services Administration

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
City of Port Huron
Southeast Michigan Council of

St. Clair County Transportation Study
(SCCOTS)
U.S. Border Station Partnership
Council

Governments (SEMCOG)

Transport Canada
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Blue Water Bridge Authority

ANTICIPATED STUDY SCHEDULE:

Date of RFP Issuance
Selection of Consultant
Study Launch
Study Completion - Approved EA or EIS/ROD

March 2002
May 2002
September 2002
September 2004 - May 2005

MDOT PROJECT MANAGER:

Z. Kris Wisniewski
Federal/Binational Policy Specialist
Michigan Department of Transportation
517/335-2614
wisniewskik@michigan.gov

STUDY CONSULTANT

Wilbur Smith Associates
Kirk Haybarker, AICP, RLA
Project Manager, Associate in Charge
6412 Centurion Drive, Suite 150
Lansing, Michigan 48917
517/323-0500
khaybarker@wilbursmith.com

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JOHN ENGLER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 425 WEST OTTAWA POST OFFICE BOX 30050, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

PHONE: 517-373-2090 FAX: 517-373-0167 WEB SITE: <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us>

GREGORY J. ROSINE, DIRECTOR

REC. GSA PROP. DEV. DIV.
2002 SEP 24 PM 12:00

September 19, 2002

Mr. Don Melcher, 5PC
General Services Administration
Property Development Division, Room 3512
230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3626
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Don:

The Michigan Department of Transportation is undertaking a study to develop a twenty-year infrastructure investment plan for improvements at the U.S. Blue Water Bridge Plaza. For that plan to be meaningful, MDOT needs the active participation and eventual buy-in of the General Services Administration in the study process. As part of the plaza study, we are forming a governmental advisory group and would like you to be a member.

Because the Blue Water Bridge is the second busiest commercial port on the U.S./Canada border, and is also the fastest growing commercial port, we believe that improvements undertaken at this facility will have regional and national impacts. It is our goal that future improvements made at the Blue Water Bridge will establish it as a state of the art border crossing facility. Your participation in this effort will help us achieve that goal.

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Sincerely,

Z. Kris Wisniewski

Federal Binational Policy Specialist

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MDOT Environmental Section
MDOT Blue Water Bridge Manager

MDOT Project Planning Section
MDOT Region/TSC
FHWA Michigan Representative

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U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
City of Port Huron
Southeast Michigan Council of
Governments (SEMCOG)

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. General Services Administration
St. Clair County Transportation Study
(SCCOTS)
U.S. Border Station Partnership Council

Transport Canada
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Blue Water Bridge Authority

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MDOT PROJECT MANAGER:

Z. Kris Wisniewski
Federal/Binational Policy Specialist
Michigan Department of Transportation
517/335-2614
wisniewskik@michigan.gov

STUDY CONSULTANT

Wilbur Smith Associates
Kirk Haybarker, AICP, RLA
Project Manager, Associate in Charge
6709 Centurion Drive, Suite 220
Lansing, Michigan 48917
517/323-0500
khaybarker@wilbursmith.com



JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

GREGORY J. ROSINE
DIRECTOR

October 17, 2002

RECEIVED
OCT 23 2002

Dear :

**Early Coordination Letter
Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study
Port Huron, Michigan**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an early preliminary engineering (EPE) study of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza on the United States side of the Blue Water Bridge located in Port Huron, Michigan. In 1999, MDOT commissioned a study of the Blue Water Bridge and Toll Plaza Operations. The study found that the MDOT plaza itself suffered from operational problems and capacity deficiencies. Under the current study, new and previous options for long term capital improvements will be evaluated along with complete environmental documentation for the recommended solution.

The United States and Canada have the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world. In 2000, U.S. trade with Canada totaled \$406 billion with an average annual growth rate of 8.9 percent. A total of 27 percent, or \$155 billion of all land-based trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico, was handled by the three Michigan-based international gateways (Port Huron, Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie). Six million vehicles including 1.6 million trucks crossed the Blue Water Bridge between Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Canada in 2000. This represented an increase of 13 percent and 28 percent, respectfully from 1994.

As part of the early coordination and scoping process, MDOT requests your comments on this project as it relates to:

- * specific areas of concern;
- * available technical information for the study area; and
- * mitigation or permitting requirements which may be necessary for project implementation.

MDOT would appreciate your assistance in forwarding copies of this notification to the appropriate staff within your organization and requests that your comments be returned to the project team within 45 days.

Page 2

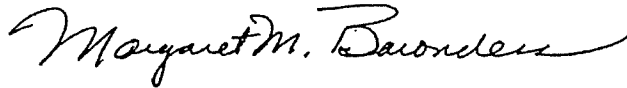
October 17, 2002

This communication also serves as notice that the Blue Water Bridge Plaza project team will be conducting various field surveys and investigations, including traffic and plaza operations investigations, wetland determinations, threatened and endangered species investigations, cultural resources analysis, hazardous materials review and geotechnical investigations, in the study area.

Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA) has been retained by MDOT as the prime consultant who will oversee and manage all work associated with the project. If you would like additional information on the Blue Water Bridge Plaza EPE Study, or would like to speak with a representative of the project team, please do not hesitate to contact the project's toll-free hotline at 1-800-955-3513 or send written comments to: Mr. Paul McAllister, Environmental Section, Project Planning Division, Michigan Department of Transportation, 425 West Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909, Phone: 517-335-2622

Please respond within 45 days so the project may proceed as scheduled. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Barondess, Manager
Environmental Section
Project Planning Division

Enc.

MB:PM:jd

cc: K. Haybarker - Wilbur Smith
K. Wisnieski
E. Waddell
P. McAllister

Mr. Dale W. Shipley, Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
536 South Clark Street
6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Mr. Shipley

Mr. Gary R. Mannesto, Chief
Regulatory Functions Branch
U.S. Army - Corps of Eng. Detroit Dist.
Construction - Operations Division
McNamara Building, 7th Floor
477 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48231
Mr. Mannesto

Admiral John S. McGowan
U.S. Coast Guard
Ninth Coast Guard District
1240 E. Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2060
Admiral McGowan

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 200-A, Whitten Building
Washington, D.C. 20250
Sir

Mr. Ronald C. Williams
State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resource Conservation Service
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
Mr. Williams

Mr. Craig Czarnecki
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
2651 Coolidge Rd.
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
Mr. Czarnecki

Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation
Branch
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd., B-19-J
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590
Mr. Westlake

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Federal Activities, NEPA/EPA
EIS Filing Section, Ariel Rios Building
South Oval Lobby, Mail Code 2252-A,
Room 7220
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Sir

Mr. James Goodheart, Executive Director
Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Inc.
P.O. Box 30235
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Mr. Goodheart

Ms. Dusty Fancher, Land Programs Director
Michigan Environmental Council
119 Pere Marquette, Suite 2-A
Lansing, Michigan 48912
Ms. Fancher

Ms. Allison C. Horton, Director
Sierra Club
Mackinac Chapter
109 East Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906
Ms. Horton

Mr. Dan Wyant, Director
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Constitution Hall - 6th Floor North
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Mr. Wyant

Mr. Brian Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer
Michigan Department of History, Arts and
Library
717 W. Allegan
Lansing, Michigan 48918
Mr. Conway

Mr. George Burgoyne
Resource Management Deputy
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Mr. Burgoyne

Mr. Paul Tait, Executive Director
Southeast Michigan Council of
Governments
660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Mr. Tait

Ms. Kayle Crampton
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
2250 Enterprize Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Ms. Crampton

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commander (obr)
Ninth Coast Guard District
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2060

Phone: (216) 902-6084
FAX: (216) 902-6088

16590
Ser. B-105/rwb
23 October 2002

Ms. Margaret M. Barondess, Manager
Environmental Section
Project Planning Division
Murray D. Van Wagoner Building
P. O. Box 30050
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Ms. Barondess:

This refers to your letter of 17 October 2002 concerning the Blue Water Bridge Plaza study.

The Coast Guard will be involved with the project only if there is a proposal to bring about a change to the bridge itself, such as changing the design as would be observed by the mariner and/or a change in the navigation clearances. From what you have indicated in your letter, this is not the case and the proposed construction will involve only the plaza. Accordingly, the proposal can go forward with no permit being required from the Coast Guard, nor any further coordination.

Thank you for advising us of the proposed project and requesting our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Bloom, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

ROBERT W. BLOOM, JR.
Chief, Bridge Branch
By direction of Commander,
Ninth Coast Guard District



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

November 4, 2002

Paul McAllister
Environmental Section
Project Planning Division
Michigan Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

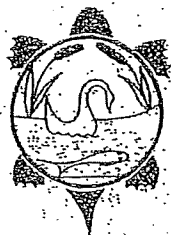
Dear Mr. McAllister:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the MDOT early coordination letter for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza on the United States side of the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron. A preliminary engineering study of the Plaza is to be conducted by MDOT to determine long-term capital improvement options to correct existing operational and capacity problems.

Review of this preliminary information indicates that the Blue Water Bridge Plaza improvements will cause no adverse impacts of significance to agriculture. Therefore, we have no further comments or concerns for this proposal.

Sincerely,


Dan Wyant
Director



ZIIBIWING CULTURAL SOCIETY

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE

6870 E. BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858

November 12, 2002

Paul McAllister, Project Team
Michigan Department of Transportation
Project Planning Division
425 West Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Early Coordination Letter

Dear Paul McAllister:

This letter is in response to the above referenced project(s).

At this time we do not have any information concerning the presence of any Indian Traditional Cultural Properties, Sacred Sites, or other Significant Properties to the projected project area(s). This is not to say that such a site may not exist, just that this office does not have any available information of the area(s) at this time.

This office would be willing to assist if in the future or during the construction there is an inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains or burial objects. I have enclosed an Informational Letter and a Site Reference Form this office uses when such an instance occurs. Feel free to call my office if you have any questions or requests at 989-775-4762.

We thank you for including this Tribe in your plans.

Sincerely,

Kayle Crampton
Historic Preservation Coordinator

Enclosures: Informational Letter
Site Reference Form

Repatriation of Ancestral Human Remains

My name is Kayle Crampton. I am the Historic Preservation Coordinator for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. This is a brief informational letter.

As times changed with the arrival of Columbus and the acquisition of land the Native People have had to deal with the legal recognition that we too have the human right to be buried and stay buried, to recover our people and property. During this massive property transfer real estate was not the only circumstance effected. Historically the Native People of this land have encountered relationships with non-Indians on matters of repatriation of ancestral burial grounds. "Repatriation" means to return to one's place of origin.

The repatriation process can be complicated from not only the tribal perspective but also for the property owner. The task of reburying Native American human remains as well as their grave goods is very important to the cultural integrity of these burials. The ideal situation is that the burials not be removed. This of course is not always possible. We need to know your needs and thoughts in order to assist you. This office has put together procedures and policies in order to respectfully return cultural items back to the earth. When this office is notified of a burial disruption we will send you a form that is a key to the start of this process.

The form we send you is called a **Site Reference Form**. This form contains key information such as the contact person, location and circumstances of discovery, authoritative personal and your scheduled table. We are interested in what your thoughts or position are regarding the burials found during the course of your project.

We appreciate if you could fill out the form and return to our office so we can begin to take action to assist you.

SITE REFERENCE FORM

revised 9/3/02

Date ____/____/____ (the date this form is being filled out)

Owner/Site Representative _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Site Reference (fill out if the site is different than owner or site representative's address)

Address _____

City _____ County _____

Location and Circumstance of Discovery _____

Discovery Date ____/____/____ Time ____ AM/PM

Official Contacts

Law Enforcement _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Investigation Officer _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Date Report received ____/____/____

Medical Examiner _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Date Report received ____/____/____

Native American Burial yes _____ no _____

Confirmed by _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Release Status _____

Schedule Considerations _____

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Contact:

Kayle Crampton

Historic Preservation Coordinator

Phone 989/775-4762 Fax 989/775-4770

6870 E Broadway

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

November 19, 2002

Ms. Margaret M. Barondess, Manager
Environmental Section
Project Planning Division
Michigan Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Barondess:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 2002. Mr. George E. Burgoyne, Jr., asked me to respond.

The location of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in a statewide database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of information on Michigan's endangered, threatened and special concern species, exemplary natural communities and other unique natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features at a site. The absence of records may mean that a site has not been surveyed. Records may not always be up-to-date. In some cases, the only way to obtain a definitive statement on the presence of rare species is to have a competent biologist perform a field survey.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, ...fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. *Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the list below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.*

The following is a summary of the results for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza in St. Clair County, T7N R17E.

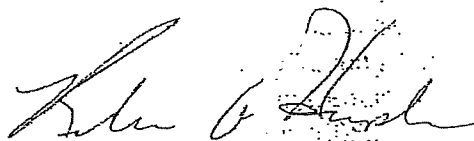
The following list includes special features that are known to occur on or near the site(s):

<u>common name</u>	<u>status</u>	<u>scientific name</u>
State Champion Scarlet Oak	N/A	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>

The state champion scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) is known to occur in Riverside Park along the St. Clair River. This tree features a girth of 156"; DBH of 50"; height of 92'; and a crown spread of 102'.

Thank you for your advance coordination in addressing the protection of Michigan's natural resource heritage. If you have further questions, please contact Ms. Lori Sargent, Natural Heritage Specialist, at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,



Rebecca A. Humphries, Chief
Wildlife Division
517-373-1263

RAH:kpg

CC: Mr. George E. Burgoyne, Jr., DNR
Ms. Lori Sargent, DNR



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Michigan State
Office

3001 Coolidge
Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, MI
48823-6321
(P) 517-324-5270
(F) 517-324-5171
www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov

November 19, 2002

Mr. Paul McAllister
Environmental Section
Michigan Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study, Port Huron, Michigan

We reviewed your early coordination letter concerning the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study. The Soil Survey of St. Clair County, Michigan can provide a wealth of information on the nature of soils in the proposed work area. Infiltration rates, runoff information and the extent of flood plain soils may prove to be useful information in this project.

A copy of this soil survey may be obtained from:

Mr. John Johnson
District Conservationist
NRCS
2830 Wadhams Road
Kimball, Michigan 48074-7870
Telephone: 989-984-3001

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact our local office at the above address.

RONALD C. WILLIAMS
State Conservationist

cc:

Mr. John Johnson, District Conservationist, NRCS, Kimball, MI
Mr. Albert Jones, ASTC for Field Operations, NRCS, East Lansing, MI



The Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain natural resources on private lands.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

NOV 20 2002

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

B-19J

Mr. Paul McAllister
Michigan Department of Transportation
Environmental Section
Project Planning Division
425 West Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Early Coordination on Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study, Port Huron, Michigan

Dear Mr. McAllister:

Thank you for notifying U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) that you are conducting an early preliminary engineering study for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza on the United States side of the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron, Michigan. We understand the importance of this crossing and others in the Detroit area with respect to trade between the United States and Canada.

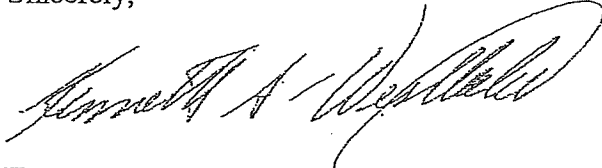
You have indicated that the Blue Water Bridge itself provides enough capacity for trucks and other vehicles. However, the plaza suffers from operational problems and capacity deficiencies because of the need to inspect vehicles and check immigration and customs paperwork. Therefore, this project would likely entail options for addressing the volume of trucks that wait for inspection and paperwork checks. No additional bridge crossing capacity is anticipated as part of this project. In this respect, the Blue Water Bridge Plaza project is distinct from the Canada-U.S.-Ontario-Michigan Border Transportation Partnership where additional bridge/tunnel capacity is being sought.

U.S. EPA has responsibilities for projects such as this under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. We anticipate being involved in the review and comment of the Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement for this project. Based on the limited information that was provided in the early coordination letter, we believe air quality, noise, and community disruption may be particular areas of concern.

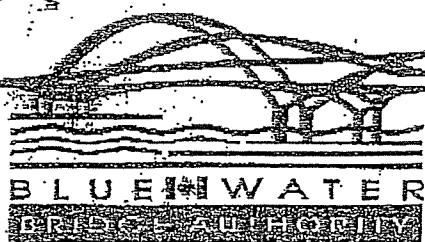
We would like to continue to receive updates from you and participate in any resource agency meetings that you schedule in the future that address this project. If you have any questions or

comments please contact Sherry Kamke of my staff with any questions. She can be reached at (312) 353-5794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis



November 22, 2002

MDOT
Van Wagoner Building
425 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI
48909

Attention: Mr. Gregory J. Rosine, Director

Dear Greg:

The Blue Water Bridge Authority, Transport Canada, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario are pleased to have been invited to participate in the work of the Advisory Committee established for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study at Port Huron and look forward to working with you and other members to ensure the success of the study.

We see the overall objective of the Study as well as a similar activity underway at Point Edward as the achievement of safe and efficient passage of travellers and trade across the Blue Water bridges through the establishment of secure and modern plazas at Point Edward, Canada and Port Huron, Michigan and we, therefore, concur with the "MDOT Strategic Objectives for Michigan - Ontario Borders" set out in the presentation to the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on October 2, 2002.

Accordingly, in full support of MDOT's objectives, we look forward to the following outputs from the study:

- i maximization of appropriate security of bridges infrastructure;
- ii optimization of vehicular flows across the bridges, including dedicated lanes for commercial traffic as well as passenger vehicles and abolition of cross-over or weave requirements;
- iii provision of adequate secondary inspection facilities on or off-site and wider use of US customs importation programs to eliminate

back-ups across the bridge and onto Canadian public highways,
and

- iv enhancement of cooperation between bridge authorities and police forces of both nations to even out traffic flows and eliminate back-ups. In our view, the foregoing outputs have similar applications to movements in either direction.

Yours truly,



Dan M. Elash, P.Eng., C.I.M.
President/CEO

DME:sh

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine

2321 Pine Grove Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: 810-985-6126
Fax: 810-985-5542

December 09, 2002

Chris Nazar
Transportation Planner
Wilbur Smith Associates
6709 Centurion Drive
Suite 220
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Mr. Nazar:

Please find attached the list of USDA APHIS PPQ facility requirements relating to the Blue Water Bridge improvement project. I have added a few items since we last spoke on this subject. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Forbes
Supervisor

Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339

USDA PPQ Requirements - Bluewater Bridge Improvement

December 09, 2002

Office Space

- Permanent (to replace current trailer)
- Desks/cubicles for 10 people
- Conference room
- Storage space
- Multiple phone lines with multi-line phones
- Close proximity to vehicle lanes, inspection areas (could be located near off-plaza truck inspection facility -- see below)
- Room for LAN equipment and other office equipment
- Lockable supervisor's office
- Lockable file space
- Lunch room

Canine Facility

- Office space for one officer
- Adjoining holding area for dog
- Must be in close proximity to vehicle lanes
- Parking space

Parking

- Space for canine vehicle near vehicle lanes (see above)
- Space for 5 additional vehicles

Truck Secondary Inspection Area

- This area does not have to be for the exclusive use of USDA
- Controlled access to and from (i.e., can get trucks to it and back to Canada without problem)
- Does not have to be on the plaza; should be within easy walking distance
- 5-8 truck bays
- Enclosed, all-weather dock capable of holding contents of 2 trucks
- Large cooler to hold quarantined flowers or vegetables pending pest ID
- Easily accessible inspection area
 - Large table
 - Good lighting
 - Magnifier with light
 - Storage facility for supplies
 - Counter space with sink and garbage disposal
- Office space with LAN connection, desks, office equipment, etc.

Treatment Facilities:

Incinerator

- Small quantities of material
- Occasional use
- Ash disposal

Tarpaulin Fumigations

- Truck bay for offloading
- Dock capacity for one truck
- Heated and indoors
- Electrical outlets
- Heavy duty ventilation capability
- Securable to prevent casual or inadvertent entry
- Office with desk, storage space, LAN connection

Vacuum chamber fumigations

- Should be in close proximity to above fumigation site
- Ventilation
- Security

Measures of Effectiveness
USDA APHIS PPQ

Dec 15/02

1. A Physical Presence at all Work Areas

With our increased workforce, we are attempting to cover all aspects of the traffic entering through Port Huron: private vehicles, trucks, Amtrak, etc. An important part of this effort is to have a physical presence (i.e., an office of some kind) in the vehicle clearance, truck cargo clearance, and truck cargo inspection work areas.

2. Close Physical Proximity of Work Areas

In spite of our increased workforce, we still do not have the staffing levels of other agencies. As a result, officers frequently need to move from one work area to another. The ability to walk quickly and safely from one area to another is critical.

3. Truck Secondary Inspection Area

The current truck dock at the Blue Water Bridge is open to the weather and has no capability for mechanical de-vanning of cargo. These factors simply make it inadequate for many inspections.

Desirable characteristics of a truck inspection facility:

- Controlled access to and from (CRITICAL)
- Does not have to be for the exclusive use of USDA
- Does not have to be on the elevated plaza
- Should be within easy walking distance (see MoE 2) (CRITICAL)
- 5-8 truck bays
- Enclosed all-weather dock with space to hold the contents of 2 trucks (CRITICAL)
- Cooler for on-hold perishable commodities
- Office space (fully equipped) (see MoE 1) (CRITICAL)
- Inspection area (CRITICAL)
 - Large table
 - Good lighting
 - Magnifier
 - Storage area for supplies
 - Counter space with sink and garbage disposer

4. Canine Team Facility

A canine team is an effective way to "work smarter" by leveraging human resources. A canine team can effectively search luggage, buses, and passengers much quicker than a group of people can. The canine program is expanding in USDA. There is a new position at both the Detroit border and Buffalo, NY; and a second position at Detroit Metro Airport. I believe it is warranted to plan for a Canine Team in Port Huron at this time.

- Close proximity to vehicle lanes
- Distant from area where contraband is examined and disposed of
- Equipped office space for one officer
- Adjacent holding area for dog
 - Space for a large wire crate

- Fresh water supply
- Dry
- HVAC (odors from contraband disposal area should be "downwind" of this area)
- Easy access to outdoor run area
- Washing facility
- Storage area for supplies
- Parking space
- Two small refrigerators to hold target items for training

RECEIVED
DEC 20 2002

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

December 16, 2002

Mr. Stu Kogge
Wetland and Coastal Resources
5801 West Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Mr. Kogge

The location for which you requested an environmental review was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in a statewide database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of information on Michigan's endangered, threatened and special concern species, exemplary natural communities and other unique natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features at a site. The absence of records may mean that a site has not been surveyed. Records may not always be up-to-date. In some cases, the only way to obtain a definitive statement on the presence of rare species is to have a competent biologist perform a field survey. Projects that are submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality are routinely checked for such features regardless if they are on public or private land.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, ...fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. *Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the list below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.*

The presence of threatened or endangered species does not preclude activities or development, but may require alterations in the project plan. Special concern species are not protected under endangered species legislation, but recommendations regarding their protection may be provided. Protection of special concern species will help prevent them from declining to the point of being listed as threatened or endangered in the future.

The following is a summary of the results for the project in St. Clair County, T7N R17E sections 33-35 and T6N R17E Sections 4-5.

The following list includes special features that are known to occur on or near the site(s) and may be impacted by the project.

common name	status	scientific name
Spotted turtle	State threatened	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>
Round hickory-nut	State endangered	<i>Obovaria subrotunda</i>

The state threatened spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) has been known to occur in the wetlands associated with Stocks Creek, though the record is quite old (1934). Spotted turtles inhabit shallow ponds, wet meadows, tamarack swamps, bogs, fens, marsh channels, sphagnum seepages, and slow streams. Common qualities of occupied habitats include clear, shallow water with a mud or muck bottom and ample aquatic and emergent vegetation. Spotted turtles often wander on land and may turn up in temporary ponds. Spotted turtles are difficult to find in summer, due to reduced movement and lack of basking activity. When frightened while in or adjacent to water, they will dive to the bottom and bury themselves

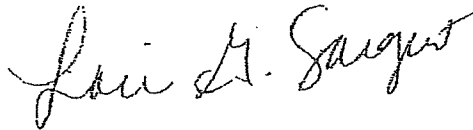
n the mud or beneath vegetation. They typically hibernate in shallow water from mid-October to late March.

Spotted turtles are omnivorous, but with a decided preference for animal food. June is the primary month females leave their drying pools to nest. They will seek a sunny, open spot with sandy or loamy soil that is moist but well drained to lay eggs. If such places are scarce, they may nest in grassy sites or in the tops of grass or sedge hummocks. Most spotted turtle hatchlings emerge from the nest in August or September. These hatchlings will reach maturity in 8-10 years. Protection of upland nesting habitat adjacent to identified and active core wetland habitats is required for the continued survival of this species.

The state endangered round hickory-nut mussel (*Obovaria subrotunda*) has been known to inhabit the Black River, though the record is quite old (1930). This mussel inhabits medium-sized streams in sand and gravel in areas with moderate flow.

Thank you for your advance coordination in addressing the protection of Michigan's natural resource heritage. If you have further questions, please call me at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,



Lori G. Sargent
Endangered Species Specialist
Wildlife Division

LGS:kpg

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

DEC 23 2002

December 10, 2002.

RECEIVED

DEC 12 2002

Mr. Stu Kogge
Wetland and Coastal Resources
5801 West Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Mr. Kogge:

The location of the proposed project (Blue Water Bridge) was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in a statewide database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of information on Michigan's endangered, threatened and special concern species, exemplary natural communities and other unique natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features at a site. The absence of records may mean that a site has not been surveyed. Records may not always be up-to-date. In some cases, the only way to obtain a definitive statement on the presence of rare species is to have a competent biologist perform a field survey. Projects that are submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality are routinely checked for such features regardless if they are on public or private land.

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The following is a summary of the results for the project in St. Clair County, T7N R17E section(s) 34, 35.

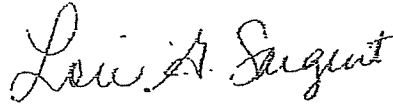
The following list includes special features that are known to occur on or near the site(s) and may be impacted by the project. Federally threatened or endangered species are marked with an asterisk (*). Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI, 48823 or (517) 351-2555 for information on federal regulations that apply to these species.

Champion tree Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)

There is a registered champion tree nearby the project site. The tree is located at Riverside Park.

Thank you for your advance coordination in addressing the protection of Michigan's natural resource heritage. If you have further questions, please call me at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori G. Sargent".

Lori G. Sargent
Endangered Species Specialist
Wildlife Division

LGS:ls